Pollution in coal belts

164. SHRI GUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press newsitem captioned "pollution weaking havoc in coal belt" as reported in the Statesman dated 9th July, 1994.

(b) if so, whether more than one lakh people living near the coal belts are suffering from respiratory diseases and TB;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to take any concrete steps to check pollution near coal belt in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The dust from the coal fields could cause respiratory diseases and TB. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests does not have any conclusive study report indicating the number of people suffering from respiratory disease and TB in the coal belt.

(d) and (e) Steps taken to check pollution in the coal belts, *inter-alia*, are as follows:—

(i) Effluent and emmision standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Ambient Air and water Quality Standards have been evolved.

(iii) A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations has been set up.

(iv) Mines have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards on a time bound basis.

(v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(vi) In order to prevent industrial pollution in future and to facilitate sustainable development, the Government has made it compulsory for major specified projects to have environmental clearance based on impact assessment and associated studies prior to site selection.

(vii) regular monitoring of the ambient air and water quality around the area for regulating the emission/discharges from various coal fields, coke oven plants, soft coke plants, briquette plants and other coal based industries.

(viii) All the coal washeries have been directed by the State Pollution Control Boards to recycle their effluents with the ultimate aim of zero discharge;

(ix) Thermal power plants have been directed by the State Pollution Control Boards not to discharge ash slurry/effluent into the rivers.

Norms for hunting/Fishing etc dyn

165. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stipulated separate norms for hunting/fishing etc. for the State guests and the common people;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the State Ministers was apprehended while fishing in prohibited area of Corbett Park;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against such offenders; and

(d) whether it is a fact that large number of Government officials have been violating the prohibitive norms, in game, reserved and national parks?